

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

---



Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: January 7, 2008**  
**Contact: Trooper B. Kessler, Tacoma**  
**(253) 536-4386 – office**  
**(253) 606-1796 – cell/pager**

## **“Olympia Man Arrested For Vehicular Assault”**

A 21 year-old male from Olympia was arrested for Vehicular Assault early this morning after crashing his car and seriously injuring his passenger.

The January 7<sup>th</sup> incident occurred at 02:21 a.m. when the State Patrol received a report of a one car injury collision southbound I-5 at exit 99 in Thurston County.

The driver, 21 year-old Joel P Shumate, was driving a 1983 Porsche southbound on I-5 and exited the freeway at 99. Shumate lost control of his vehicle in a turn and left the roadway to the right. The vehicle slid off the west side of the ramp colliding with a tree and rolled.

The passenger in the vehicle, 25 year-old Justin Shumate also of Olympia, was transported to St. Peter Hospital with serious injuries. Investigators at the scene suspected the driver to be under the influence of drugs and a Drug Recognition Expert was called to the scene. After further investigation the driver was arrested for Vehicular Assault. The investigation lasted for approximately two hours.

Speed and drugs were a factor in this preventable collision. The Washington State Patrol investigates many collisions involving the use of drugs. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of ANY type of drug that affects your ability to operate a motor vehicle, whether legal or illegal. If you take any type of prescription drug always read the labeling to see what affects the drug will have on you; if it states “may cause drowsiness or caution when operating a motor vehicle”, do not drive.

Fortunately in this collision both lives were spared. The WSP has investigated many other devastating collisions where lives were lost. Please do not drive drugged; check your medication and know what the effects are and stay free of any type of illegal drugs.

**###**

